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V. pedatifida Don. is "probably only a marked geographical variety of that species [*V. palmata* L.] with all the leaves finely dissected," is worthy of further attention. In the Mississippi valley, where the three forms all grow, often quite near one another, their relations could be well expressed by considering *V. pedatifera* one extreme and *V. cucullata* the other, with *V. palmata* as an intermediate form. However, it will not do to consider the intermediate form, which is far less common than the others, as the type of the species. It is simply an intermediate form, and not a very constant one either.——L. H. Bailey's Preliminary synopsis of N. A. Carices (Proc. Am. Ac. Arts and Sciences) came to hand late in October. It contains notices of 289 species including, in addition to the strictly North American species, those of Mexico, Central America and Greenland.

ENTOMOLOGY.

A REMARKABLE CASE OF LONGEVITY IN A LONGICORN BEETLE (EBURIA QUADRIGEMINATA).—On the 11th of July, 1886, I caught at sugar, which had been placed upon apple trees for the purpose of attracting moths, a light brown long-horned beetle, marked with ivory yellow spots on the elytra. My attention was particularly attracted at this time to the insect on account of a peculiar creaking sound which it began as soon as I picked it up. I had no difficulty in finding that the sound was produced by the rubbing of the posterior margin of the prothorax upon the anterior margin of the mesothorax. The same sound could be made after the insect was dead, by working backward and forward its head and prothorax. Several days after this occurrence I captured a specimen, similar to the first, upon the clothes of a friend, but it disappeared before I reached home. On the 17th of July I found a third specimen on a tree but a few feet distant from that upon which I discovered the first specimen; this individual was also evidently attracted by the sugar. Five days later, July 22, 1886, another specimen came into my posession under much more remarkable circumstances. Dr. Boyd, of Dublin, Wayne county, Ind., called my attention as I was walking along the street, and at once proceeded to remove two small corks with which he had closed two openings in the door-sill of his office. He then requested me to explain what had made the tunnels that evidently extended some distance into the sill. In reply to my questions, he stated that his attention had been called to the freshly made openings early in the morning; at that time the holes were much smaller, and were ragged around the edges. These rough edges he had smoothed with a knife so he could stop them tightly with corks. A short time after he made the discovery mentioned, his attention was attracted by a buzzing noise which came from one of the tunnels. This he put an end to by pouring chloroform into the opening, and then plugging it up with a cork. There had been no sound of life from the other tunnel, but he had closed it in the same manner. Upon hearing this I removed the cork from the tunnel where the sound had been heard, and in a moment dragged out by its antennæ a beetle, similar to those whose finding I have already described. This beetle is *Eburia quadrigeminata* Say.

Mr. Thomas, in the "Sixth Report of the Illinois State Entomologist" describes the imago as follows: *Eburia quadrigeminata,* "Body, entirely pale yellowish-brown; antennæ hardly more obviously hairy on the basal joints than on the others; thorax, with two black tubercles above, rather before the middle, placed transversely, and a short spine each side on the middle of the length of the thorax; elytra, rather paler than thorax, each with two double, somewhat elevated, bright-yellow, abbreviated very short lines; the two members of the basal spot equal, the other spot is placed on the *middle*, the inner member is shorter than the exterior one; tip, two spined, the exterior spine the longest; intermediate and posterior thighs, two spined at tip, the inner spine rather longest." Mr. Thomas also states that the insect is from three-fourths to an inch in length, and that its larva lives and bores in the honey locust (*Gleditschia triacanthus* Linn), and from this fact it gets its name of the honey locust borer.

A closer examination of the tunnels in Dr. Boyd's doorstep showed that the external openings were in the middle of the length and breadth of an ash door-sill and about four inches distant from each other. The size of the tunnels increased rapidly within until the diameter was three or more times as great as at the exit. They extended downward and backward respectively three and four inches. The sill was of painted ash and it, as well as the whole building, rested directly upon a solid brick foundation. After having completed the above observations, I did not hesitate long in coming to the conclusion that the eggs which had produced this beetle and its fellow, that had made good its escape, were laid in the green wood in the tree. In response to my questions, Dr. Boyd made the statement that the building was erected in the Spring of 1867. This would make these insects not less than nineteen, and probably twenty or more, years old, since the timber was dry when put into the house. Upon investigation I find that Professor Packard in his "Insects Injurious to Forest and Shade Trees," makes no mention of this beetle, but that he has recorded two cases of unusual longevity in beetles which will be of interest in this connection. In both instances these beetles have belonged to the family Cerambycidæ or longicorns. The first mentioned case was that of a specimen of *Monohammus confusor* Kirby, the common longicorn pine-borer, which Mr. A. C. Goodell, of Salem, Mass., presented to the Peabody Academy of Science. Mr. Goodell took the insect from a bureau that had been in the house for fifteen years and was new when bought.

An account of the other case I give in the words of Dr. Fitch: "The wood of the apple tree was formerly highly valued for cabinet work in this country. In 1786 a son of General Isaac Putman, residing in Williamstown, Mass., had a table made from one of his apple trees. Many years afterwards the gnawing of an insect was heard in one of the leaves of this table, which noise continued for a year or two, when a large long-horned beetle made its exit therefrom. Subsequently the same noise was heard again and another insect, and afterwards a third, all of the same kind, issued from this table-leaf; the first one coming out twenty and the last one twenty-eight years after the trunk was cut down." The proof of the identity of these beetles is not complete, but Professor Packard thinks they were *Cerasphorus balteatus.*

I find that *Eburia quadrigeminata* is not given in Hubbard and Schwarz's "List of Coleoptera found in the Lake Superior region," nor in the "Contribution to a list of Celeoptera of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan," by the same authors. But in Schwarz's "List of species" of Coleoptera found in Florida, *Eburia quadrigeminata* is mentioned as being "not rare on sugared trees in June." It is not given in LeConte's "List of species of Eastern New Mexico," but it is mentioned in his "List of species of Kansas and Nebraska." In his "New species of North American Coleoptera," he refers to it as "the ordinary *quadrigeminata* of the Southern States and the Mississippi valley." Thus, while it is a common enough insect over a large territory, no other case of its remarkable longevity seems to have been recorded. On comparing it with the other specimens in my collection, the only decided points of difference are the smaller size of the lateral spines of the prothorax and the terminal spines of the elytra; and the longer antennæ which, not exceeding the length of the body in the other specimens, are in this one one and a-half times as long.—*Jerome M'Neil, Indiana University, Oct. 26, 1886.*

ZOOLOGY.[1]

LEPTODORA IN AMERICA.—It may interest those of your readers who collect fresh-water Entomostraca to know that perhaps the most elegant and remarkable of that interesting group, *Leptodora hyalina,* Lillj., is much more abundant and easily obtainable than is implied by a note on page 896 of your last issue. First dredged by Professor S. I. Smith, in Lake Superior, in 1871, it was next found by me in June, 1877, in the Illinois river at Peoria, as reported in 1878, in Bull. 2, Vol. 1, of the Illinois State Laboratory of National History, p. 88. In the same bulletin I recorded its occurrence in the food of *Dorysoma cepedianum, Polyodon folium,* and *Hyodon tergisus,* all from the Illinois river. In our Bull. 3,

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[1] Invertebrata edited by J. S. KINGSLEY, SC.D., Malden, Mass.